

**TOWN OF PARADISE  
COUNCIL AGENDA SUMMARY  
DATE: AUGUST 11, 2009**

**AGENDA NO. 7.b.**

**ORIGINATED &**

**REVIEWED BY: Charles Rough, Town Manager**  
**Mark Haunschild, Fire Chief**



**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED RESPONSE BY THE TOWN OF PARADISE TO  
THE FINAL 2008-2009 GRAND JURY REPORT**

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:**

**Approve the Town's response letter to the Grand Jury and authorize the Mayor to sign the letter.**

**BACKGROUND:**

Following the two major fires on the Ridge last year, and the continuing issue of adequate emergency evacuation routes on the Ridge, the 2008-09 Grand Jury studied a number of fire safety and emergency preparedness-related issues. The Town of Paradise (Fire Department) was listed as one of the agencies that the Grand Jury requested a written response from relative to their report and findings.

None of the Grand Jury's findings were specifically directed to the Town of Paradise, or to its fire department. However, there are findings that clearly involve the Town by virtue of the issues studied by the Grand Jury and their findings.

More specifically:

1. The Town of Paradise Town Council last year adopted a resolution calling for the development of alternative emergency evacuation routes and improvements to existing routes that have adequate carrying capacity during an evacuation.
2. Following the fires, the Town of Paradise submitted, last February, to the Town of Paradise/Butte County Ad Hoc Committee an initial report and recommendations to specifically improve fire prevention, emergency preparedness and fire protection/suppression through the formation of a Mello-Roos Community Facilities district. This proposed district would include the Upper Ridge, the Town of Paradise, the south Paradise unincorporated area and Butte Creek Canyon. The draft of the final report is being presently distributed to a working committee this week, with the final report being submitted to the Town of Paradise/Butte County Ad Hoc Committee, in late August.

## **Council Agenda Summary Report**

-2-

3. None of the findings concerning the lack of emergency evacuation plans, emergency communications, or notifications are applicable to the Town of Paradise. In fact, the Town of Paradise was the forerunner on the Ridge in the development of an evacuation plan. The County had an adopted evacuation plan which they implemented during the Camp Fire Lightning Complex fires. Furthermore, the Town's Emergency Operations Center's public information and emergency communications system has not only proven in major emergencies to be highly effective and reliable, but it is the most advanced on the Ridge.
4. The Town appreciates the Grand Jury's endorsement of a benefit-type assessment district to help fund adequate evacuation routes in our area.

Finally, the Town of Paradise appreciates the Grand Jury looking at this important public safety issue and challenge.

Submitted for the Town Council's review is a written response from the Town that if approved, would be submitted to the Grand Jury over the signature of our Mayor.



# TOWN OF PARADISE

5555 SKYWAY • PARADISE, CALIFORNIA 95969-4931

TELEPHONE (530) 872-6291 FAX (530) 877-5059

[www.townofparadise.com](http://www.townofparadise.com)

August 11, 2009

The Honorable James F. Reilley, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California  
County of Butte  
One Court Street  
Oroville, CA 95965

Re: Response by the Town of Paradise to the Final 2008/2009 Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Reilley:

We are very appreciative of the 2008/09 Grand Jury studying a number of fire safety and emergency-preparedness related issues that affect the safety and security of our citizens.

None of the Grand Jury's findings were specifically directed to the Town of Paradise, or to its fire department. However, there are findings that clearly involve the Town by virtue of the issues studied by the Grand Jury and their findings.

More specifically:

1. The Town of Paradise Town Council last year adopted a resolution calling for the development of alternative emergency evacuation routes and improvements to existing routes that have adequate carrying capacity during an evacuation.
2. Following the fires, the Town of Paradise submitted, last February, to the Town of Paradise/Butte County Ad Hoc Committee an initial report and recommendations to specifically improve fire prevention, emergency preparedness and fire protection/suppression through the formation of a Mello-Roos Community Facilities district. This proposed district would include the Upper Ridge, the Town of Paradise, the south Paradise unincorporated area and Butte Creek Canyon. The draft of the final report is being presently distributed to a working committee this week, with the final report being submitted to the Town of Paradise/Butte County Ad Hoc Committee, in late August.

3. None of the findings concerning the lack of emergency evacuation plans, emergency communications, or notifications are applicable to the Town of Paradise. In fact, the Town of Paradise was the forerunner on the Ridge in the development of an evacuation plan. The County had an adopted evacuation plan which they implemented during the Camp Fire Lightning Complex fires. Furthermore, the Town's Emergency Operations Center's public information and emergency communications system has not only proven in major emergencies to be highly effective and reliable, but it is the most advanced on the Ridge.
4. The Town appreciates the Grand Jury's endorsement of a benefit-type assessment district to help fund adequate evacuation routes in our area.

Finally, to reiterate, the Town of Paradise sincerely appreciates the Grand Jury looking at this important public safety issue and challenge.

Sincerely,

  
Frankie Rutledge  
Mayor

FR;slb